THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) During Ninth Five Year Plan a total of Rs. 14433.85 crores have been allocated towards the State Health Sector by Planning Commission for all States/UTs. This includes provision for Basic Minimum Service Programmes under which States have flexibility to choose their priority amongst seven Basic Services including Primary Health Care.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Requests for strengthening of State Health System have been received from various States and are under implementation in some of the States with World Bank funding after appraisal by the Government. Reproductive and Child Health Programme is also being implemented in the States which provides for strengthening of Primary Health Care System through provision of drugs, equipments, civil works, training and support staff etc.

**Cause and Cure of Asthma**

706. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that asthma is hereditary and first degree blood relations are at ten fold greater risk;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a rise in new case of asthma where people with no family history of the disease are getting attacks late in life sometimes in their 50s and one in every ten kids has asthma; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to cure the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Genetic factors are important in determining the risk of development of Asthma. However, environmental factors are also likely to be primary determinants of expression of asthma.

(b) There is reported rise in asthma world wide. There is a suggestion that number of cases of asthma are increasing in India. Asthma can occur at any time, even in old subjects who do not have

a family history of asthma. As per a study in 1996, the prevalence of asthma among 5—16 years old school going children in Delhi was observed to be 11.9%.

(c) There is no complete cure for asthma. However asthma can be controlled by proper medication, which is available all over the country. Besides, in urban areas, Government has launched several measures to control pollution caused by automobiles, industry etc.

**Welfare schemes for Women, Widows and Children**

707. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented by the Central Government for the welfare of women, widows, children etc. in different States of the country;

(b) the names of such schemes and programmes, position thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of new schemes proposed to be formulated for women and children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Names of the schemes are given *in* Statement—I and their State-wise position, is given *in* Statement—II (*See* below).

(c) No new scheme has been proposed at present.

**Statement-I**

**List of the Schemes Implemented by the Central Government in Various States/UTs**

**Department of Women and Child Development**

1. Creches/Day Care Centres for children of working/ailing mothers
2. National Creche Fund
3. Training of ICDS Functionaries